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From the Desk of the Commander, 1244th Transportation Company, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

Dear Family, Friends, and loved ones,

Well, we are here in our last month of deployment and the days are moving rapidly. We have begun the process of packing our conexas (these look like railroad car boxes) and preparing our equipment for the wash racks. We have our wash dates (tentatively) set for 16-18 July. This is when the company has to wash all of the trailers and trucks to meet Department of Agriculture regulations for transport back into the States. Our "Mission Complete" date has been established as 15 July with an ALD (available load date to fly) as 25 July. This was approved through our theatre chain of command of BG Stultz.

Mr Brown and the peacetime chain of command, through LTC Hall and CSM Geske, are coordinating buses for transportation of families from Salem and Chicago to the flight line in Wisconsin upon our arrival at Volk Field. The USO has been generous enough to aid in providing the buses, so if you are interested, please contact the FRG.

Understandably, we are going to be very busy in this last month. I would ask that you do not listen to rumors or false reporting. If there are direct questions, please contact the FRG or our chain of command. I know it is going to be extremely difficult for the families until we get home. We cannot understand and/or comprehend all the frustration and hardships you have had to endure since we have left. All we can ask is that you remain patient just a little longer. There is a light at the end of the tunnel and it is our smiles lighting the way. We look forward to seeing you all very soon. Take care and we will see you soon.

Some of our troops activities:

- Completion of the Field Sanitation training class (40 hours) by 10 personnel
- Completion of the Combat Lifesavers training class (40 hours) by 9 personnel
- Completion of the Combat Lifesavers Re-Certification class (8 hours) by 14 personnel
- Our troops have been able to participate in several MWR trips (open market and malls) into Kuwait City
- Visit from LG Blum, Chief, National Guard Bureau
- Visit from MG Diamond to talk and receive questions from the troops
- Troops have completed the Theatre Distribution Center mission (they moved logistics within the Kuwait Theatre for a period of over 11 weeks, daily, for 12 hours shifts)



Our condolences to:

- SGT Benjamin Watkins loss of his grandfather

Well wishes, Good Health, and God Speed to:

- SGT Diane Sippel's father during his recent illness
- SGT Oved Hernandez' wife during her recent illness
- SSG Bill Berens' wife during her recent hospitalization
- SPC Siavichay's recent injury and recovery
- SPC Burgos' recent injury and recovery
- SPC Lewis' recent injury and recovery
- SPC Huerta, B. recent illness and recovery

Many thanks for recent contributions from:

- American Legion Ladies Auxillary, Robert E. Coulter Post #1941, Western SP VFW Post #10778, LaGrange, IL
- Cardinal Health, CP/PBDS, Manufacturing Division, McGaw Park, IL

Sincerely,
CPT Rhonda L. Petersen
Commander

State Orders and ID Cards

The Illinois Department of Military Affairs issued orders in Feb03 to activate the 1244th. It was those orders that allowed our dependent family members to obtain Military ID cards for insurance, commissary and other benefits. The Family ID cards were reissued in Feb04 to continue the family coverage. The current State orders expire August 15th along with most dependent ID cards. The new State Orders extend the expiration date of dependent ID cards until 15 Oct.

We have arranged to have an ID team at the North Riverside Armory, 16 July 6 PM to 8PM and 17 July 8 AM to 1 PM. Please plan to visit the Armory at these times to get your dependent ID cards renewed.

Chaplain hotline

Hotline to assist families, Chaplain hotline number: 1-800-443-2985



If you have an email address, please let us know. This information is very important to us. Contact us by emailing the FRG at frg1244tc@yahoo.com as soon as possible. In the subject box write:

Family of 1244th email address request.

Be sure to include your full name, your soldier's name, your relation to the soldier, and your phone number so we can reach you if we have any questions. Thank you so much. AS CONFUSING AS IT SEEMS **WE ARE NOW BACK ON YAHOO!** EMAIL IS THE MOST EFFICIENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEWSLETTER AND OTHER INFORMATION.

<http://yahogroups.com>

<http://www.il.ngb.mil.1244/trans>

1244th Family Picnic

Mark your calendars we will be having a Family Picnic at the North Riverside Armory, Saturday July 17th, Noon till 3 PM. All family members are welcome; please let your phone tree contact know your intentions regarding attendance. There will be no charge, but we are asking those that can to bring a dessert to share.

Demobilization Briefing

A De-Mob Briefing will be held at the Armory 17 July 10 AM. 733rd QM BN Staff will present a session on items to expect and how to plan for the return of our soldiers. This briefing will be held just before our Family Picnic that starts at Noon. Plan to attend both.

The Briefing will be similar to the April briefing, but new information will be presented and it is expected that we will be able to provide definite information regarding the return flight from Kuwait.

Childcare will be provided for young children so that parents can devote their attention to the Briefing.

Meeting Our Soldiers

The 1244th is expected to return to the US in late July, possibly the weekend of 23-25 July. As we did in April the FRG Council has arranged for bus transportation to Volk Field for our families to meet the flight as the soldiers return. Since it is summer, family schedules may allow more or less to go to Volk Field.

Those families that want to drive to Volk Field also have that option, but no private vehicles will be allowed on Volk Field. A meeting place is being arranged to meet families driving to the Volk Field area where an Army bus will transport everyone to the airfield. *However, due to the many variables involved; several units on the same plane, the possible large number of people involved, limited parking, and limited hotel space available it is strongly recommended that as many people as possible use the buses provided to travel to Volk Field rather than drive.*

The Army is requiring the FRG Council to provide a list of ALL people planning to go to Volk Field (bus or drive). That list must include the NAME of each person. We will not be allowed to simply provide a list of family name and number of people. When we arrive at Volk Field all adults will be required to show a government issued photo ID (Drivers License or Military ID).

If you have not received a call from our Phone Tree by 10 July and you plan to make the trip to Volk Field, please call Bob Brown 630-393-1413.

The bus trip will be from North Riverside to Volk Field and back, we will possibly have snacks and beverages on the bus, but meals will not be provided. It is suggested that everyone bring sufficient food for their family to satisfy your needs. Delays in the flights will make this a long day!

We must caution that the flights from Kuwait are not on scheduled airlines nor is their schedule reliable. The flights are coming from a combat zone, must make several stops and delays may occur. In other words, we can plan but until the flight actually lands nothing is definite. A unit from Springfield proved everything can go wrong, their flight was delayed a week, the actual flight split the unit, coming in a day apart and the time changed repeatedly. Everyone finally returned but not without much frustration to the families waiting to greet their soldiers.



Birthdays



Congratulations to the following soldiers that have **BIRTHDAYS** in the month of July;

Lyons, Richard Hohoff, Brittany Taboada, Joel Lohman, Brian Siavichay, Victor Sounthala, Kelly Lewis, Juisell Ruiz, Roberto Young, Stephanie Scott, Ronald McMahon, Matthew Berndt, Brian Jones, Roy Padilla, Henry Walton, Theresa Houser, Brandon

Coming Events

FRG Council Meetings Every third Wednesday, 7PM at the Armory, Open to all, next meeting **July 7th**.

July 16th, 7 PM Pizza Night at the Armory. Get together to share experiences during the current deployment. 733rd QM Battalion representatives are scheduled to answer questions.

Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

July 17th, 10 AM De-Mobilization Briefing at the Armory.

July 17th, Time Noon – 3 PM Family Picnic, at the Armory

July ????, Meet the 1244th at Volk Field

Aug 6th, 7 PM Pizza Night at the Armory. Get together to share experiences during the current deployment. 733rd QM Battalion representatives are scheduled to answer questions.

Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

Acontecimientos Que vienen

Las sesiones del Consejo de FRG cada tercer miércoles, los 7PM en el arsenal, se abren en todos, reunión siguiente de Julio el 7.

Noche de la pizza de julio 16th, 7 del P.M. en el arsenal. Reunirse para compartir experiencias durante el despliegue actual. 733rd Los representantes del batallón de QM programar contestar a preguntas. Pizza \$3 para los adultos y \$1 debajo de 10

De julio 17th, 10 A.M. del en el arsenal. Informe del de-Mobilization

De julio el 17, 12:00 P.M. - comida campestre de la familia de 3 P.M., en el arsenal

Julio ????, Resolver el 1244th en el campo de Volk

Noche de la pizza de agosto 6to, 7 del P.M. en el arsenal. Reunirse para compartir experiencias durante el despliegue actual. 733rd Los representantes del batallón de QM programar contestar a preguntas. Pizza \$3 para los adultos y \$1 debajo de 10





Joliet Jack Hammer's 1244th Night

What a night we had at the Joliet Jackhammers game. The management staff, especially Bob Lapinski VP sales, made our night at the ballgame something to remember. The soldier's names of the families that were in attendance was announced over the pa system and best wishes was given for the whole 1244th unit. Everyone that attended received a free baseball and a pennant.

Even though the Jackhammers did not win, it was a night of good old baseball.

To Bob Lapinski and the Joliet Jackhammers thanks for making it a night of good old fashion fun.

FRG Council

Our 1244th FRG Council has suffered some attrition during our term. We are currently operating with only a few people out of our original group of 12. We need your help, the 1244th is coming home, our FRG mission will be changing it is time for new people to join the Council. New Council members can help with the transition to a non-deployed status. If you have any interest in helping the 1244th FRG move in it new direction, please come to a Council meeting in the future. The Council meets every third Wednesday at 7 PM at the Armory; our next meeting is July 7th.

The FRG Council and Committee Chairs;

Leader:

Bob Brown,
(630) 393-1413
blkbt7@aol.com
soldier, Greg Brown

Secretary:

Theresa Lemmer,
(847) 683-7202
theresalemmer22@hotmail.com
soldier, Lisa Lemmer and
Matthew Palm

Treasurer:

Carol May,
(630) 637-1946
clmay@wowway.com
soldier, Donald May

Phone Tree:

Diva Davis,
(708) 345-4719
DIVAJDAVIS@AOL.COM
soldier, James Davis

Special Events:

Caroline Perkins,
carolineperkins@comcast.net
soldier, Wes Perkins

Newsletter:

Bartolo Nava,
(312) 217-2263
bartolonava@aol.com
Soldier, Eric Morales

Fund Raising:

Renee Berens,
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renee_berens@adp.com
soldier, William Berens
Council members:
Claudia Hillsman,
(708) 345-3589,
maeliza18@aol.com
soldier, Daniel Hillsman

Shawna Howard,
(708) 226-1811
Shawnaop@aol.com
soldier, Len Howard

Rear Detachment:

Ssg Carl Langs,
(708) 824-6030
carl.langs@il.ngb.army.mil

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/frg1244tc/>

See us at:

We're on the Web!





FRG FAMILY READINESS GROUP
1244th Transportation Co.
ILLINOIS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
8660 west Cermak Road
North Riverside, IL 60546

